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## GIVING

Timely donations from all quarters.  
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Zoning makeup queried.  
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German vessel finally leaves Canal.  
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# INPORT NEWS

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■ **LEVEES:** Mayors to hold levees

## New Year's in Port

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Fireworks will light up the lakeside city twice on New Year's Eve to help ring in the new year, said the city's special events co-ordinator, Allaina Kane said the first set of fireworks will go off around 6 p.m. after the Cason Kids Carnival at Westside Arena, while the second set will be set off around 7 p.m. on West St.  
see **LEVEES** Page 2

■ **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER:** More than 120 served at 14th annual Port event



CHRISTOPHER FORTIER for InPort News

Volunteers help out at the Community Christmas Dinner at Port Colborne High School.

## Strangers become friends

CHRISTOPHER FORTIER  
for InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — The spirit of the season was in full swing as volunteers gave their time to spread Christmas cheer at Port Colborne's Community Christmas Dinner.

"The people who organize this event are dedicated people, they've done a wonderful job," said Marcienne McQuikine, one of the many volunteers who offered a helping hand.

More than 30 people were on hand to serve people who came in to take part in the afternoon meal.

see **DINNER** page 2

See Inside:  
**INSERTS**  
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## LEVEES

## Residents can come out to mayor events

FROM PAGE 1

Kane said the Casco Kids Carnival runs from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 31 with a number of activities and displays for children.

Free skating from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; face painting; displays from Casco, Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services and Niagara EMS; games; and a cookie decorating contest are just some of things families can take part in on New Years eve.

"The games are being presented by Stoik Construction and No Frills donated product for the cookie decorating contest," said Kane, adding



Vance Badawey



April Jeffs

Casco is sponsoring the whole event.

She said at 6 p.m., a fireworks display will take place at the ball diamonds beside Westside Arena, on Westside Rd.

While those fireworks are going off, city crews will close off West St. from Charlotte St. south to the city yards, for the second fireworks display.

"There will be no cars allowed on the street between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.," said Kane.

She said the fireworks display, being put on by RedBoss Pyrotechnicians Inc., will take place shortly after 7 p.m. The fireworks will be set off from the east side of the Welland Canal, from the same location they are during Canal Days.

In the new year, Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs will hold a Mayor's Levee in council chambers at Wainfleet Township Hall on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 1 p.m.

Mayor Vance Badawey will hold his Mayor's Levee in council chambers at city hall on Sunday, Jan. 9 at 1 p.m.

Residents of both cities are encouraged to come out and speak to the mayor and councillors/alderman.

## DINNER



CHRISTOPHER FORTIER For InPort News  
Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badawey is all smiles as he serves mashed potatoes at Saturday's Community Christmas Dinner at Port Colborne High School.

## School cafeteria filled with smiles, laughter

FROM PAGE 1

The cafeteria at Port Colborne High School was filled with smiles and laughter as strangers sat down next to one another and quickly became friends in an atmosphere of Christmas spirit.

The dinner, which is in its 14th year, has been successful because of the many people who come out and volunteer to help out.

He said the positive response is something he is quite happy to see. Feagan expected about 120 people to come to the dinner, but food is cooked for 250 people. The meal included turkey and ham as well as mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing and

mixed vegetables. Most of the food was prepared at Port Colborne General Hospital, and the organizers relied heavily on assistance from the community. "Everything is donated, down to the last napkin," Feagan said.

## UBERYOUTH: Groups join forces for youth

## New Year's Eve at The Hub

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Hub and Uberyouth are offering city youth a fun and safe night out New Years eve.

The Hub will host a party and band show on Friday, Dec. 31 with doors opening at 8 p.m.

Uberyouth members, there are about 30, wanted to do something for the youth of the city on New Years eve and worked with The Hub's Bradley Shea to put on the event.

Bands playing at the event include Those Damn Medalling Kids, Universal Thought, Autumn Crush, and Avoiding the Afterlife. The cost is \$5, which includes snacks and party favours. It is a non-alcohol, all ages event.

Uberyouth is a group of young people that organized in 2006 after becoming tired of complaining there was nothing to do in the city.

The youth originally met with the board of directors of Community Living and asked for permission to use its center on McRae Ave. as a home base.

They got approval and have been getting together hanging out, planning activities, and outings ever since.

The group has hosted Rock in the Park as well as Canal Days Idol and other band shows in the city.

All proceeds from the New Years eve event will be given to The Hub for more youth programs.

Tickets can be bought at The Hub, which is located in the city hall, 72 Charlotte St., Port Colborne.

# portraits

## ■ SURPRISE \$1,000 DONATION



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Keith and Cheryl Sullivan made a surprise \$1,000 donation Thursday morning to Mary Anne Feagan, centre, Port Cares Reach Out Centre manager. The couple said Port Cares has helped them in the past when they needed it and the two, who volunteer at the centre, decided to give something back. Feagan, who was overwhelmed by the donation, said it would go toward the capital fund for the centre's expansion.

## ■ CHRISTMAS DINNER



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Estelle Gauthier and Chuck Allen cook up Christmas dinner at Port Cares Reach Out Centre Thursday morning. USW Local 6200 and Vale (formerly Inco) donated \$500 to help pay for the dinner for clients of the agency.



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## ■ UNION SAYS THANK-YOU



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Members of the United Steel Workers Union Local 6200 in Port Colborne made a donation to Port Cares Reach Out Centre by sponsoring a Christmas meal with all the trimmings. "It's great to be able to help those that helped us during our labour dispute," said Bob Cerneau. Reach Out Centre staff delivered food to the workers on the picket line when they were out on strike this past year. The \$500 donation was used to purchase food for the meal as well as presents for the children who will be attending over the Christmas Season. Czarnai, union financial secretary presents a cheque to Lynda Reinhart, executive director of Port Cares.

## ■ FIREFIGHTERS COME THROUGH



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Professional Firefighters Association members, from left: Bill Teal, Doug Steers, Wayne Benner Jr., Mike Radzikowski, Joe Bilodeau, Jordan Ristine, Mike Bendia, fire Chief Tom Cartwright and Dave Radzikowski, stand with some of the toys association members purchased for Santa's Helpers.

# INPORT NEWS

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## yourview

### Step back and examine incident

Last week's incident on Lake Erie, which saw 16 sailors pulled from the Liberton-registered vessel Hermann Schoening due to poisoning, needs to be examined by all agencies involved.

The rescue effort led to Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services, who were assisted by Port Erie Fire Department and two civilian tugs. The efforts of the two fire services and the civilians on the tugs have to be commended.

The city's technical rescue was sent out on the tugs and Port Erie supplied two of its Zodiacs. The co-ordination between all was excellent.

A helicopter from CPD Trenton was sent down and hovered over the boat to provide light, security and it had a water rescue team onboard to assist if needed. While that helicopter was no doubt welcomed by the crews on the ship, anchored 3.7 nautical miles southwest of the city, we feel more was needed.

A Canadian Coast Guard ship would have been welcomed on scene and made transferring the sick crew members a lot easier. While the tugs and fire boats were able to transfer all the men to shore, they were lucky Lake Erie was calm that night. A winter storm would have kept the Zodiacs from reaching the ship and, depending on the conditions, the tug may have been stuck in harbour.

That could have seen the ship brought into the Welland Canal to dock. But with a sick crew and dangerous gas onboard, that may have not even been possible. At the time, no one was sure if the gas could be spread by contact or what threat it posed. And if an fire crew trying to dock a ship would have been challenged.

While the Niagara Regional Police maintain boats on the waterway, from the spring to fall, they were not to assist in the effort. Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (Pcomar) ships were long out of the water and would have taken a long time to launch as they are now sitting on blocks for the winter season. Maybe it's time for a permanent Coast Guard base on Lake Erie. One close to the Welland Canal. There is a Coast Guard ship based in Port Dover, but that is a long way off.

A Canadian Coast Guard presence on the Great Lakes would allow it to respond to emergencies such as this one. And combining it with an RCMP presence onboard would give a stronger law enforcement presence on the lake.

The situation last week was both a marine emergency and a potential law enforcement one as well. With the ship being internationally-registered and having an international crew, there is always the possibility, whoever remote, of terrorism being at play.

We're sure it crossed the minds of fire Chief Tom Cartwright and city officials as Port Erie firefighters made their way to the ship. While we think the possibility of terrorism is fairly remote, it is possible and firefighters should have to deal with something like that. Nor should the chief and city officials be put in that position.

Cartwright plans to call all agencies that were involved in the incident for a brainstorming session in the new year. We think that's a great idea and hopefully something will come of the session that will help deal with events like this should they ever occur again.

## I'VE BEEN THINKING

# About the passage of time

Rev. Steven Davis  
Central United Church

As 2011 looms very closely on the horizon, New Year's Eve is usually a time for us to look back and reflect on what was, to look ahead to the possibilities of what might be and perhaps more than anything else to shake our heads and wonder how we got here so fast. Years seem to fly by. One fades into another and so on and so forth, and as each one comes to an end we take a deep breath and take stock of our lives. New Year's Resolutions fly fast and furious as we reflect on the goals we're setting for ourselves in the year ahead, and the opportunity to do that comes every year thanks to the passage of time (and so it might say relentless) passage of time.

Time is an interesting thing in that it is not one of those questions that no one can possibly offer a definitive answer to. You know the type of question I'm talking about. What's the value of pit How big is the universe? How did time start? There's no real answer. On the one hand, time must have started because everything has to start; on the other hand time

couldn't ever have started, because if you could pinpoint what you thought was the exact moment time started, you'd be left with one more question: what happened to those five minutes before that? I've heard people say that it's one of those questions that will drive you insane if you spent too much time thinking about it. In any event, the time started isn't really that important. All that really matters is that it did start, and we all know it.

The passage of time takes its toll. At 47, I still consider myself young, but I also know that I have a few aches and pains when I get up in the morning that I didn't have 20 years ago. Some people find the inevitable passage of time and the challenges that it brings unsettling, even frightening. I suspect that might be why we've turned New Year's Eve - which is neither a new beginning nor a new end - into a time when you think about it - into a worldwide excuse for a giant party. I have nothing against a good party, mind you, but this one is interesting. Are the parties we attend on New Year's Eve really an opportunity for us to forget what the night really represents: another year has

passed us by.

So the new people that Jesus tells us that the passage of time isn't to be feared. The future is in the hands of God. And, after all, as Jesus said, "Who among you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" But some do worry. They fear the changes that time brings and they become fearful of what the future might hold and they become so obsessed with the past that they go to extremes to try to recapture it. You can see it in how they dress, or how they speak, or in the kind of car they drive. Modern society has created entire industries around

people who want to deny the marching on of time. If you don't want people to know how old you are just get a little lift here or a little tuck there.

Sorry to inject a somber note into the New Year festivities, but the truth is that the passage of time we mark with the change of the calendar is a reminder to us that eventually so much time will have passed that no one reading this today will even exist in the world any more. Maybe that's why we party on New Year's Eve - because

New Year's Eve more than any other day reminds us that time marches on, and there's not a blessed thing we can do to stop it.

But Jesus offered a bit of advice to those who would follow him - and even to those who don't. He said "don't worry about the future." Jesus speaks to people who have troubles and worries and fears in their lives, to people who are concerned about the future and to people who desperately need hope. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talked to such people about birds and flowers.

Why? Because they don't fear what's coming next. They know instinctively that God will provide; that God will take care of them. And God will take care of us too. Sure there will be challenges and difficulties. That's inevitable. But in the midst of them, God will be there. I pray for all of us that in 2011 will bring many blessings, and I worry about 2011 is ridiculous.

Focus on now - and in each moment, live life to the full in a way that honours God and that gives dignity and love and respect to those around you.

Take care of the present, and leave the future to God. Happy New Year.

## readers views

### CAMPAIN NEEDS SUPPORT

It's Our Time campaign needs southern tier support.

Delivery of hospital health care is changing and nowhere is that more evident than in South Niagara. Changes at Port Colborne hospital and Douglas Memorial hospital in Port Erie have been particularly stressful for residents of those communities.

Conversions of the emergency departments to urgent care centres at these sites were done to improve patient access to the right site, for the right care and on a more timely basis. Unfortunately, misinformation continues to circulate in the community that the Port Colborne and Douglas Memorial hospitals are closed or will be closed. This is simply not true.

More than 95% of the patients who visited the emergency departments (EDs) at Port and Port continue to access great care at the urgent care centres, which operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week - with lower wait times than in our EDs. The other 5% - the sick patients - are now taken directly to an ED in Welland or Niagara Falls which have the equipment and health care profes-

sionals required. This means ambulances in the Port Erie area take non-emergency patients directly to Douglas Memorial's urgent care centre and in the Port Colborne area take non-emergency patients directly to Port Colborne's urgent care centre.

These changes reflect the realities hospitals - including Niagara Health System - face. The local hospital can no longer be the one stop for all our health-care needs. However, these changes make sense for the IT's Our Time campaign very challenging for the south Niagara campaign. Of the \$40 million being raised through community donations for the campaign, \$7 million is being raised in south Niagara to support Welland, Douglas Memorial and Port Colborne sites. Of this, \$3 million has already been raised for the following improvements:

At the Welland site, a 128-slice CT scanner was purchased to replace the four-slice CT, dramatically extending diagnostic imaging capabilities and enhancing health care services. This new equipment allows faster diagnosis and is a critical tool for ruling out or early diagnosis of cancers, diagnosing acute aneurysms, strokes, causes of chronic headaches and is essential for trauma cases.

Previously when a patient required further care, patients often had to travel to Hamilton or Toronto. Having this advanced CT at the Welland site eliminates need for most patients to travel outside the area.

At the Douglas Memorial site, donations from the Welland community for the urgent care centre, renovations to develop the complex continuing care centre to provide specialized care for patients with complex health needs or chronic conditions, and electric beds which each cost about \$7,500.

At the Port Colborne site donations will help fund renovations and equipment for the urgent care centre, upgrades and new diagnostic imaging equipment for the complex continuing care centre.

These funds must be raised through community donations and your support is essential. Please make your donation today to advance healthcare in our southern Niagara communities by contacting Heather Scott at the Welland site's patient foundation at 905-476-4677 ext. 32386.

Rob Neill, B.Sc., FCA Chair, South Niagara Cabins.  
IT's Our Time Campaign

■ **EDUCATION:** We need to better prepare our young people for the real world

# Saying so long to academia



George Duma  
BY GEORGE

I am no longer a college teacher.

I resigned at the end of the current school term, when my most recent one-semester contract ran out, to pursue the proverbial "other interests." When I arrived at Niagara College three and a half years ago, in what's termed a partial-load position, I knew it probably wasn't for the rest of my life. But teaching was something to which I had

always aspired and the timing was right.

In 2007, former Niagara College dean of Information and Media Studies Leo Tiberti offered me a position to teach in the journalism program and I jumped at it. An individual I admire, respect and for whom I have a great deal of affection was asking me to join his team of educators and fulfill my dream of teaching.

Then there was the fact I would have the opportunity to work with my dear buddy Paul Dayboll, the coordinator of the journalism program and an icon in the program responsible for graduating many fine journalists currently working

in the industry.

As difficult as it was to leave my Tribune family at the time, it was also easy on some levels.

Leo left in August of 2008 to take a vice-president's position at Saint College in Sault Ste. Marie and things were different after that.

About three weeks ago, a glorious opportunity presented itself, an opportunity that would take me back into the world of journalism and back into the private sector. I accepted.

I'm back to being in a frame of mind where I can't wait to get to my new office each day. It's a good feeling. One of my ongoing mantras to my students was,

"Find that one thing you love doing the most and turn it into a career. You will then never have to work a day in your life."

It was like that during my years at the Tribune — I was blessed.

Couldn't wait to get there every day. And now, it's like that again.

Would I ever consider teaching again? Absolutely. But for now, life is where it should be.

Of course, the thing I will miss most about the teaching gig is the students. They made the entire experience of the past few decades what it was.

See **ACADEMIA** Page 6

## MURDOCH'S

Year End

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## ■ ACADEMIA

# Graduation: It was not unlike pushing them out of the nest

## FROM PAGE 5

These young and not-so-young individuals would appear on our college doorstep to begin their first year of studies and, with their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge — well, most of them anyway — they evolved into professionals.

By the time we graduated them, they were ready to become full-fledged journalists. It was not unlike pushing them out of the nest to fly on their own.

It has certainly been satisfying, watching students pursue their dreams and ambitions. I stay in touch with them well after they leave and that will never change.

I will remain committed to the students who passed through my classrooms.

The things I won't miss? Well, life has taught me you can never go wrong taking the high road, so there's no point in bashing out the negatives.

Fact is there are so many incredibly wonderful people at Niagara College with whom I crossed paths. Folks I will remember forever. They far overshadow the negatives.

Observation? Many, but the one that stands out is how we don't do our young people any favours by never failing them when they should be failed.

In fact, as I have watched young

students come and go these last 40 months, I see how damaging it is to them, in the long run, to have never failed at anything in life before we get them.

This whole notion of pushing people through in elementary and secondary school, of equal playing time on the field or in the arena, of rarely being challenged in life, is quite harmful to young people as they prepare to join the adult world.

We end up with a kind of homogenized mediocrity: many will do the bare minimum to pass because that's all they have to do. And if there are no marks attached to something I forget it. It will simply not get done. No matter

that it helps to learn the material. They will not put in the extra effort for excellence because nobody recognizes their failures due to a lack of effort.

Am I generalizing? Of course I am.

Does this apply to all students coming into college? Of course not.

In fact, one of our own hometown girls, Lindsay Costello, is in her final year of studies in the journalism program. She's bright, funny, warm, quietly strong, diligent, talented and has a work ethic that will carry her far in life. It's been an honour to teach

Lindsay and the others like her that have come through the program in the past three-and-a-half years.

But my point does apply to many students, far too many.

There's this sense of mortified disbelief the first time they fail an assignment or test. They're outraged; they simply can't believe it.

And my heart breaks. They did not come about this sense of entitlement on their own. It was thrust on them by an education system that somehow thought it was nurturing them.

In fact, we are not nurturing our children by accepting the

bare minimum from them. In fact, we are doing them a huge disservice. It does not bode well for their futures.

It seems our generation has managed to get so much wrong during the time we've had on this planet.

At the very least, let's leave the future generation with enough tools and devices to clean up our messes.

We owe them that much.

*George Dierna is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gdierna@oxgonia.ca*



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■ MEMBERS: Committee of adjustment

# Makeup of Wainfleet Planning review group called into question

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The makeup of the township's committee of adjustment was brought into question Tuesday night, causing a final recommendation to be deferred into the new year.

Ald. Ted Hessels raised the issue after seeing the committee consisted of two members of council and three members of the public.

Hessels believed the committee was to be made up of five members of the public.

He also wanted to know what kind of community involvement the potential members had and why people were chosen.

Mayor April Jeffs said many different committee compositions were discussed, ranging from no committee at all with council assuming the responsibilities, to having a mix of council and residents so council could have some input.

"I picked the people we felt had the right fit," Hessels said the committee, which looks at minor variances in zoning bylaws, was advertised as consisting of five residents.

"It seems like we're backtracking on that," said Hessels, wondering whether the committee should consist of five residents alone.

Township chief administrative officer Scott Luey said

the committee consists of five members, but only three members hold meetings.

The only time all five meet is to approve minutes of meetings.

Township planner Grant Munday said the committee appoints a chair and vice-chair and members rotate between meetings.



Betty Konc

"We wanted to be balanced," said Jeffs.

The mayor said one of the people chosen sat on the previous committee of adjustment and one of the others, while new to Wainfleet,



Ted Hessels

Hessels agreed the one person chosen was great, but he didn't see anything on it that pertained to Wainfleet and said that "irritates me."

"I have a bit of uneasiness with that one," he said.

Jeffs said the person had an economic tourism background, something a little dif-

ferent than other applicants.

"They bring a fresh perspective to the community,"

Resident Michael McCallion said having five people on the committee would add to the cost of it and to taxpayers.

He suggested having someone new who has no background in Wainfleet might be a good idea.

He said with no knowledge, those people would be relying on the Planning Act only to make decisions.

"If you're only going by the planning act, why have a committee of adjustment?" he said.

McCallion said having only politicians on the committee would politicize it.

Fay Owen, a resident who was on the last committee, agreed the committee shouldn't be politicized.

Owen was also concerned over the lack of experience some of the new committee members could have.

Jeffs was hoping for council to have more of a hand in making decisions and while

she agreed experience is important, it was felt switching things up a bit might be good for the community.

Ald. David Wyatt understood the issues being raised, he said, but added the committee was always contentious with residents who appeared before it.

He said the rationale when choosing people for the committee they were to follow the will of the electorate.

He said some of the past decisions made by the committee didn't follow the Official Plan, which created issues.

Ald. Richard Dykstra told council he was willing to give the committee a trial run in the new year.

Hessels felt there was enough time before the committee met that council could revisit the issue in the new year and put his deferral motion forward.

That motion passed and council will look at the committee makeup at its Jan. 18 meeting.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

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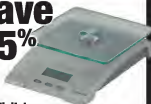
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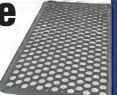


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■ PHOTOS: City will post photos

# Contest on Facebook

InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE**  
—Through to Jan. 10, the City of Port Colborne will display its holiday photo contest entries on its Facebook page.

Residents, visitors and Facebook fans can vote for their favourite pictures.

The theme, Christmas in Port Colborne, will portray "there's no place like home for the holidays."

The contest is open to residents and visitors of all ages. Photographers may submit up to five photographs.

High-resolution, digital images must be submitted on CD either by mail or in person to the Roselawn Centre at 296 Fielden Ave., or to City Hall at 68 Charlotte St., or via e-mail to [tourism@portcolborne.ca](mailto:tourism@portcolborne.ca).

Entrants must give the city permission to post their

images on Facebook and use the photos for other promotional purposes.

Facebook users will vote to choose the three top picks.

City staff will announce the winner.

Complete contest rules, information and entry forms are posted on [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca).

Photos may be of any location in Port Colborne. Suggested are holiday decorations, festivals and events, special moments of Christmas and faces of people during holiday events.

In January, the winning photo will be selected and featured on the Port Colborne website, [www.facebook.com/cityofportcolborneand](http://www.facebook.com/cityofportcolborneand) other print marketing produced for the city.

The winner will receive a \$100 gift card for @27 Restaurant.

## localbriefs

### WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR WRITERS

**ST. CATHARINES** — Canadian Authors Association, Niagara, presents Dialogue — the writer's most important tool — a workshop for people who like to write.

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Whether you're writing fiction or memoir, you need to be able to write great dialogue and learn how to mix your dialogue and narrative so that your characters come alive. Come to this workshop and learn both the basics and the best tricks of the trade so that you'll never write a lifeless scene again.

Workshop leader Brian Henry has been a book editor and creative writing instructor for more than 25 years. He teaches creative writing at

Ryerson University and has led workshops everywhere from Boston to Buffalo and from Sarajevo to Charlottesville. But his proudest boast is that he's helped many of his students publish their first books and launch their careers as authors.

Canadian Authors Association is a non-profit group for people who share a passion for writing. Contacts and registrations: Brian Henry at [brianhenry@symptaco.ca](mailto:brianhenry@symptaco.ca) or Anne Osborne at [anne.osborne@symptaco.ca](mailto:anne.osborne@symptaco.ca)

The workshop takes place Saturday, Jan. 15, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Mills Room, St. Catharines Public Library, 54 Church St., St. Catharines. The fee: \$44 in advance, \$48 at the door.



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■ ILL: Sixteen sailors became sick

# Ship leaves Seaway system

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Liberian-registered German vessel Hermann Schoeningh, the ship which saw 16 sailors fall ill, cleared the Welland Canal and St. Lawrence Seaway system this past weekend.

Sixteen sailors were brought ashore in Port Colborne early last Wednesday morning after falling ill aboard the ship last Tuesday night.

The illness was attributed to due to potentially fatal gas vapours flowing through the ship.

Niagara Region's public health department said the men, Chinese sailors, were assessed and treated at Niagara Health System sites and West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. Fourteen were taken to NHS sites, while two were taken to the Grimsby hospital between 2 a.m. and 3:15 a.m. Wednesday.

The health department — one of the many agencies called to West St. — reported all individuals were stable and the hospitals were working with Canadian Border Services Agency to appropriately discharge the patients. They were expected to be released Wednesday.

The sailors on board the ship, which was on Lake Erie 3.7 nautical miles southeast of Port Colborne, became ill after phosphine gas leaked from cargo holds into living and working spaces, said Transport Canada in a news release.

The gas formed after fumigation pellets used on board the vessel somehow became moist or wet. Phosphine is a chemical used to fumigate or control pests in processed foods, stored tobacco, animal feeds and non-food products.

The health department said the chemical was not spilled into the water or onto clothes and the gas is not spread from person to person.

"Therefore the ship's crew cannot spread this to anyone with whom they may be in contact," said a release from the health department, which wanted to reassure the public there was no secondary health risk from the incident.

A Transport Canada inspector was to board the vessel, which left Milwaukee sometime over the weekend, to conduct an investigation Wednesday and work with other agencies to gather information.

"The safety of the marine transportation system is Transport Canada's highest

priority. As soon as Transport Canada became aware of this incident Tuesday afternoon, officials began working with authorities to respond to the incident," said the federal agency tasked with marine safety.

Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services fire Chief Tom Cartwright said he was quite happy with how everything went down Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The support between Niagara EMS paramedics, Niagara's regional emergency management person, Niagara Health System, [medical officer of health] Dr. Robin Williams, Coast Guard, Transport Canada and the other agencies was good. Everyone worked well together."

Port Colborne's fire service became involved after it received a call from Health Canada asking for assistance in helping the sick crew members. A conference call was held between Transport Canada, Health Canada, the shipping agent and Cartwright about what to do with the ship and crew.

"Out of that, there was a direction to move ahead and try and deal with the sick crew members," said the chief, adding he called city manager

Bob Heit to inform him of what was going on and the city manager in turn called Mayor Vance Badawey.

The city's two top officials were at the fire hall throughout the night working with Cartwright and all agencies involved.

The sailors were removed from the ship, with five left onboard to ensure the safety of the Hermann Schoeningh, by a combination of two tugs — the pilot boat JW. Cooper and Nadro Marine's vessel Seahound — and two Zodiac fireboats from Fort Erie Fire Department.

"The boats from Fort Erie worked well for us in getting the men off the ship," said Cartwright.

The sailors were ferried to shore via the Welland Canal where they were met by waiting paramedics and ambulances on West St. at Kent St. Paramedics assessed each sailor as border officers checked their paperwork.

Cartwright said the shipping agent — Montreal-based Gibson Canadian & Global Agency Inc. — was to send a bus to pick up all of the sailors and take them back to Port Colborne once released from hospital.

"I assume the tugs we used

would be the same ones to take them back out to the ship" he said.

The chief said the five crew members who remained on board would be assessed by paramedics once the ship docked in the canal.

The saltwater ship was bound for Montreal.

Transport Canada said safety conditions set out for the ship's passage include: the issue of a clearance certificate by a fumigator; receipt of medical reports for all crew members who have been released from hospital; a plan for the permanent sealing of the point of gas leakage prior to departure from Montreal; and periodic monitoring and reporting to Transport Canada marine safety of the gas levels.

A Transport Canada inspector on board the ship ensured gas levels were being checked every three hours when they boarded last Wednesday. Gas levels were found to be within normal range.

The agency is continuing a full investigation into the incident. Fire could be levied against the ship if Transport Canada finds any infractions of the Canada Shipping Act.

djohnson@wellandribusiness.ca

■ SAILORS

## Border agency checks sailors' documents

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — As 16 sick sailors were brought ashore early last Wednesday morning to be assessed by paramedics, Canada Border Services Agency officers were standing by.

The officers were there to look over the documents of the men, who were removed from the Liberian-registered German vessel Hermann Schoeningh after falling ill Tuesday night due to potentially fatal gas vapours flowing through the ship.

The agency was called in — along with many other local, regional, provincial and federal groups — to deal with the crew from the internationally-flagged vessel.

Scott Turner, border services superintendent of Niagara/Fort Erie and Hamilton district, said the check was routine, as it would be for any foreign national reporting into Canada.

Dealing with marine-related issues is one of the responsibilities of the agency.

"We get manifests from shipping companies and when the men come ashore we'll do a document check," said Turner, early Wednesday morning from West St. in Port Colborne.

Turner said the agency wanted to ensure the safety and security of the crew members.

Mayor Vance Badawey said the response of agencies such as Canada Border Services to the situation onboard the vessel went very well.

"It was a seamless process — everything gelled. I have to give a lot of credit to our fire service and the guys who went out to the ship."

Badawey said the city was able to deal with the situation thanks to the emergency planning and training it carries out.



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■ **FIT FOR LIFE:** Second challenge held

# Gym-goers feeling energized after eight-week event



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

From left are Gino Spada from G&M Fitness, Doris Carbert, Matt Spada from G&M Fitness, Betty Cote, and Cathy Boggio from Boggio Pharmacy. Carbert and Cote were the top winners in the Fit for Life Challenge held over the past eight weeks, an initiative by the gym and pharmacy to improve the health of Port Colborne area residents.

**ALLAN BENNER**  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Nine weeks ago, Betty Cote felt very tired all the time. She found it very difficult to keep up with her young grandchildren. Cote wanted to change that — “Because someday, I want to dance at their weddings,” she said.

Doris Carbert said she was tired of feeling aches and pains, and walking up stairs while clinging to the railing. Things have changed for both of them.

“I feel energized — lots more energy,” Cote said. “I’m ready to go all the time now.”

Cote shed 7.8 kg in eight weeks, including 5.85 kg of body fat since participating in the Fit for Life Challenge offered by G&M Fitness and Boggio Pharmacy. She won a one-year gym membership

at the King St. facility as the challenge’s physical achievement winner.

And Cabert, who took on the challenge with her husband Budd, earned a one-year membership by shedding the most weight — 8.1 kg.

Although Budd, who lost 6.75 kg, wasn’t one of the top two prize winners, he said he received a reward anyway. His reward was better health.

“My energy level has come up. I feel a lot better.”

That’s a reward all 27 people who participated in the second Fit for Life Challenge received. Combined, they lost 99 kg.

Gino Spada, who runs the gym with his son Matt, said the event began last spring when Cathy Boggio contacted him about starting an initiative to help people get

in shape.

“People that I talk to that are 30 years old, feel like they should if they were 50,” said Spada. “And people that are 50 are feeling like they should if they were 80.”

He said the problem is people simply aren’t as active as they need to be.

“Society is making us sit a lot longer. Society is making us do less manual labour, and we’re sitting a lot quicker than we should,” he said.

To stay young and healthy, he said strength training is a necessity. In addition to feeling a lot better, each of the participants was given a two-month membership extension or a gift certificate to help pay for a new membership.

Spada said another Fit for Life Challenge could be held in the spring.

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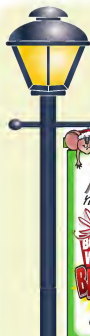
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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on behalf of YMCA OF NIAGARA application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for an Act to amend The Young Men's Christian Association of St. Catharines Act, 1926 to provide that YMCA of Niagara may acquire and hold real property or any interest in real property in The Regional Municipality of Niagara; YMCA of Niagara may establish branch associations in The Regional Municipality of Niagara; and beginning January 1, 2010 land, as defined in the Assessment Act, in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, is exempt for taxation for municipal and school purposes, except for local improvement rates, if it is occupied by and used solely for the purposes of YMCA of Niagara and if YMCA of Niagara is a registered charity within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

This application will be considered by the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions, for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Guesst's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2.

Dated at the City of St. Catharines this 8th day of December, 2010.

J. Rodney Bush  
Solicitor for the Applicant  
Sullivan Mahoney LLP  
Lawyers  
40 Queen Street, P.O. Box 1360  
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### Smokers' Cleanse

If you are ready to quit, we are ready to help.

Smokers Cleanse addresses the 3 main "triggers" that cause people to fall in their attempt to quit smoking.

- Lung Support works to expel mucous and soothe bronchial passages
- Grieving Support works to reduce craving
- Stress Relief helps to reduce anxiety and promote restful sleep.

Smokers Cleanse is the ultimate aid to help you stop smoking.



ON SALE **\$37<sup>49</sup>**

### First Cleanse

One of the best ways to help ensure optimal health and energy is to perform an herbal cleansing program 2 or 3 times per year. When one considers the sheer quantity of toxins that enter our body, cleansing is no longer an option, it's a requirement.

First Cleanse is a unique, 15 day all natural herbal cleanse, formulated specifically for the "first time" or "newbie" cleanser. It is designed to stimulate the cleansing and detoxification process of the body's 7 channels of elimination: liver, lungs, colon, kidneys, blood, skin, and lymphatic system. First Cleanse is strong enough to be effective, yet gentle enough to avoid a "cleansing crisis" common among more advanced cleanses.



ON SALE **\$18<sup>99</sup>**

**20% off**

**SUPPLEMENT PRODUCTS**  
NON SALE ITEMS ONLY

### Cleanse More

CleanseMORE is a powerful colon cleansing product that works without the use of harsh, purgative type laxatives. It is effective for relieving occasional constipation.

CleanseMORE works by ensuring that the colon is properly hydrated, while at the same time stimulating "peristalsis", the body's natural action of pushing contents out of the colon.

CleanseMORE contains no cascara sagrada or senna, which are harsh, purgative type laxatives that can cause damage to the intestinal tract and colon if used long term.



Buy 120's Get 60's Free **\$24<sup>99</sup>**  
(While Supplies Last)

Products On Sale Until January 31, 2011



The Healthy Cupboard

Tanya and Ian Birrell  
Owners of The Healthy Cupboard

## TWO LOCATIONS!

PORT COLBORNE

101 CLARENCE STREET  
(across from Food Basics)

905 **835.9806**

FONTHILL

111 #20 EAST  
(Across from Sobeyes)

905 **892.9054**